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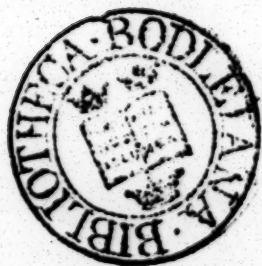
From a
Residing Member
O F T H E
S O C I E T Y

For Promoting
Christian Knowledge
I N
L O N D O N,

T O A
Corresponding Member in
the C O U N T R Y.

*The Second Edition, with consider-
able Additions.*

L O N D O N,
Printed and Sold by J. Downing in
Bartholomew-Close near West-Smith-
field, 1714



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LETTER, &c.

S I R,

IT is with no little Pleasure I hear of the good Opinion you have conceived of the *Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge*, and of the great Satisfaction you express in being chose a *Corresponding Member* thereof; I doubt not, but you will be still more and more pleased as you become better acquainted with the Designs they are engaged in, and the Methods they take to make them effectual; which, because at present, I believe, you are not thoroughly acquainted with, I thought it not amiss to give you a short Account of the Rise and Progress of this Society, and of the Success it has pleased God to give to

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their

their pious Endeavours ; and this I am the more induced to, in hopes, that what I shall communicate on this Occasion, may suggest to you some Hints, that probably will be of Use to you in carrying on the same good Work in your own Neighbourhood.

But as I am very well assured you are a hearty Well-wisher to every thing that tends to the Advancement of God's Glory, I doubt not but you'll pardon me, if, before I enter upon what I principally aim at, I detain you so long, as to lay before you an Account of some other Societies, which have been set up of late Years, in and about the City of *London*, who, by different Methods, are endeavouring to promote the same Ends, (*viz.*) the Interest of Religion, and the Good of Souls.

I need not, I believe, tell you, That the Religious and Virtuous Part of this Nation have for a long Time complain'd of the infamous Clubs of *Atheists*, *Deists*, and *Soci-nians*, who, for many Years past, have

have, with an uncommon Zeal, laboured to propagate their pernicious Principles, and thereby have endeavoured, either to undermine the Truth of the revealed Religion, or to disparage the Myſteries of our holy Faith: It was this, that excited ſome, who had a true Concern for the Honour of God, to form themſelves alſo into *Societies*; that ſo by their united Zeal and Endeavours, they might oppoſe the Miſchief of ſuch dangerous Principles, and fortify both themſelves and others againſt the Attempts of thoſe Sons of Darkneſs, who make it their Buſineſs to root out (if poſſible) the very Notions of divine things, and all Differences of Good and Evil.

Accordingly about 35 Years ago, a conſiderable Number of pious Perſons of the Church of *England* met frequently together to pray, ſing Pſalms, and read the Holy Scriptures, and to reprove, exhort, and edify one another by their religious Conferences; and their Number have ſince ſo encreaſed, that they make at preſent about Forty

Two Societies, in and about *London* and *Westminster*. This Example hath been followed by several devout Persons in divers other Parts of this Nation ; as also in *Ireland*, particularly in *Dublin*, where there are several of these Societies, encouraged by the Bishops and inferior Clergy there.

These Societies, and their Methods and Orders, were inquired into, and approved, by our late QUEEN of blessed Memory, and the late Archbishop *Tillotson*, and Bishop *Stillingfleet*, and are greatly esteemed by several others of our Bishops and Clergy, who have made the same Enquiry : And these are the Societies, which are particularly called, The **Religious Societies** ; whose charitable Designs are described, and recommended in a pious Discourse by the Reverend Doctor *Josiah Woodward*, entitled, *An Account of the Rise and Progress of the Religious Societies in the City of London, &c.*

These Societies have been very instrumental in promoting, in some Churches,

Churches, Daily Prayers, Preparatory Sermons to the Holy Communion, the Administration of the Sacrament every Lord's-Day and Holy-Day, and many other excellent Designs conformable to the Doctrine and Constitution of the Church of *England*; which have not a little contributed to promote Religion, particularly among those of the younger sort.

But as the private Devotions and exemplary Lives of the Members of these Societies were not sufficient to stop the Torrent of Vice which had broken in upon us: About Twenty Three Years since, Five or Six private Gentlemen, Members of the Church of *England*, considering that the higher the Tide of Wickedness run, the more need there was of opposing it, agreed to set up a **Society for Reformation of Manners**, by promoting the Execution of the Laws against Vice and Immorality; and this Design, tho' at first violently opposed by the Advocates of Debauchery, yet

by the divine Assistance, the Patronage of their late Majesties *King William* and *Queen Mary*, the Countenance of many of the Clergy, particularly of his Grace the late Lord *Archbishop of Canterbury*, and by the Zeal and Industry of the Persons engaged therein, (most of which are Men of considerable Rank and Fortune ; as *Members of Parliament*, *Justices of the Peace*, *Lawyers*, and *eminent Citizens*) hath prospered to a Degree exceedingly great, beyond what humane Wisdom did, or could expect ; for this Design encountring no Man's honest Advantage, no ways intermeddling in Matters of Controversie ; and the executive Part being managed by such, who have constantly refused even such Share of the Forfeitures on Convictions, as the Law allows to Informers, lest they should seem to aim at their own private Advantage ; many virtuous good People of the Protestant Dissenters, as well as of the Church of *England*, have readily agreed to join Hearts and Purse in the Prosecution thereof ; and this Union of
Hearts

Hearts and Affections in things so agreeable to all who deserve the Name of *Protestants*, of *Christians*, of *Englishmen*, or even of Men, hath been of great Use to remove the Prejudices which many have taken up against the Establish'd Church, as well as against one another, and hath laid a Foundation of that Love and Charity among Christians, which all good Men so mightily long for.

It is by the Endeavours of this Society, assisted by the Religious Societies aforesaid, and divers others since formed, and acting under the Influence of it, that many Thousands have been convicted of Swearing, Cursing, Drunkenness, Lewdness, Prophanation of the Lord's-Day, &c. in and about the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*; many of whom (at least outwardly) have been reformed thereby.

By these Means our Streets have been very much cleansed of the lewd Night-Walkers, and other publick Places of the Gangs of detestable Sodomites, and even those

Parts of the Town have been very much cleared, which were formerly notorious for the Number of Bawdy-Houses, and the harbouring of lewd and wicked Persons.

“ Besides the great Good that
 “ hath been done by them since they
 “ have enlarg’d their Designs in
 “ promoting the sincere Practice of
 “ Religion, by their procuring so
 “ many Books and Papers to be
 “ writ for the awakening of Men
 “ to a Sense of their Sins, and Con-
 “ cern for their Souls ; the exciting
 “ of them to a conscientious Dis-
 “ charge of Family-Duty ; and the
 “ laying open to the World the
 “ outrageous Disorders and execra-
 “ ble Impieties of the Play-Houses,
 “ with the fatal Effects of them to
 “ the Nation in general, and the
 “ manifest Sin and Danger of par-
 “ ticular Persons frequenting of
 “ them ; and in giving away, at
 “ their own Expence, a great Num-
 “ ber of those Books and Papers
 “ that they procured to be publish-
 “ ed on such proper Subjects for the
 “ effecting a Reformation ; and *lastly*,
 “ the

“ the promoting of the Education of
 “ poor Children in the Principles of
 “ Religion, and the employing of
 “ them (with their Learning) in
 “ some such Work as may render
 “ them serviceable to the Publick.

Of the Rise, Progress, and Success of these Societies, the World has had an Account, in a Book, entituled, *An Account of the Societies for the Reformation of Manners in England and Ireland ; with a Persuasive to Persons of all Ranks to be zealous and diligent in promoting the Execution of the Laws against Profaneness and Debauchery, for effecting a National Reformation : Published with the Approbation of a considerable Number of Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and of the Honourable Judges of both Kingdoms ;* and also in another Book, entituled, *An Account of the Progress of the Reformation of Manners :* The former of which Books has been translated into several Languages, for the Promoting a Reformation in other Nations.

You will perhaps meet with some Persons that are no great Friends:

to the Society for *Reformation of Manners*; and 'tis no Wonder; (for they that are Enemies to God and Religion, will be sure to oppose those that attempt to weaken the Kingdom of Darknes) but as the Prejudices that some have conceived are owing in a great Measure to their Ignorance of the true Nature of this Design, and the wrong Notions they have entertained concerning it; you will do well to recommend to those whom you find disposed to listen to the Convictions of Truth and Reason, two Books, (which have been lately written by *John Disney, Esq;*) entituled, *Essays upon the Execution of the Laws against Immorality and Prophaneness*; the serious Perusal whereof will, I doubt not, convince any Man, that is not blinded by his Lusts and Passions, that the endeavouring to suppress Immorality and Profaneness, by prosecuting the Offenders according to Law, is a truly noble and Christian Undertaking, and consequently to be countenanced and encouraged by all those, that have any Regard for the Honour of God and the Salvation of Souls. I

I shall next present you with a short Account of Her Majesty's Bounty for an Augmentation to poor Livings. About the latter End of the Year 1703. Her Majesty was pleased to inform Her Parliament, by a Message, of Her gracious Intentions of granting her whole Revenue of First Fruits and Tenths to the poor Clergy; whereupon an Act was past in the *Second and Third Year* of Her Reign, entituled, *An Act for the making more effectual Her Majesty's gracious Intentions for the Augmentation of the Maintenance of the poor Clergy, by enabling Her Majesty to grant in Perpetuity the Revenues of the First Fruits and Tenths; and also for enabling any other Persons to make Grants for the same Purpose:* After which Her Majesty, by Letters Patents under Her great Seal, bearing Date the *Third Day of November* 1704. was pleased to establish a Corporation, by the Name and Title of *The Governours of the Bounty of Queen Anne, for the Augmentation of the Maintenance of the poor Clergy, the*
Greatest

Greatest and most Considerable that ever was known in *England* ; being composed of all the Lords, and others of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, for the time being ; all the Lords Lieutenants, and *Custodes Rotulorum* in *England* ; all the Lords the Bishops ; all the Deans of Collegiate Churches ; all the Judges ; the Queen's Serjeants ; the Attorney and Solicitor General ; the Advocat-General ; the Chancellors, and Vice-Chancellors of both the Universities ; the Lord-Mayor and Aldermen of *London* ; and all Mayors of Cities for the time being : and by new Letters Patents, dated 5 *March* 1713. for *Preventing the Delay and Obstruction of the Business of the said Corporation*, Her Majesty has been pleased to encrease the Number of the said Governours, by adding all the Officers of the Board of Green-Cloth ; all the Queen's Serjeants, and Council learned in the Law ; and the Four Clerks in ordinary of the Privy Council. The first thing the Governours did, after opening their Commission, was
to.

to consider the State of the Revenue of First Fruits and Tenths, and of the Condition and Numbers of poor Livings to which the Royal Bounty was to extend, *viz.* To all under 80*l.* *per Annum.* As to the First, they found that the whole Revenue of Tenths did not amount to quite 13,000*l.* yearly; and that the First Fruits, which were much more contingent, did not, at a Medium of 20 Years together, exceed 5000*l.* *per Annum*; but the said Revenue of First Fruits and Tenths, at the Time it was vested in the Governours, stood charg'd with Grants and Pensions, (several of them for Life) to the Value of about 11,000*l.* *per Annum*; and with great Arrears of the said Pensions, which (together with one Annuity of 1000*l.* that they have bought off) have cost the Governours near 30,000*l.* As to the latter, to wit, the Number of small Livings, the Lords the Bishops, at the Request of the rest of the Governours, made a Return to them of all Livings in their respective Dioceses, not exceeding 80*l.* *per Annum,*

num, the whole Number of which amounted to above 5000. This being the State both of the Revenue and of the poor Livings, and the Demands of an Augmentation being so great, and the *Assets* so small, there remained but one way to make the poor Clergy sensible of the Queen's Bounty, the Effects of which (being ignorant of the Difficulties that had lain so long in the way) they had been expecting so many Years; wherefore the Governors humbly represented the Condition of the Revenue to Her Majesty, and procured her Leave to bring into Parliament a Bill for discharging small Livings from their First Fruits and Tenths, and all Arrears thereof; by which, and by a subsequent Act in the *Sixth* Year of the Queen, for allowing a longer time to the Bishops for returning Certificates of such poor Livings as had lost the Benefit of the first Act, almost Half the Ecclesiastical Livings of *England* were discharged from the Payment of first Fruits and Tenths; and above 3000*l.* per

Annum

Annum struck off from the Revenue of Tenths ; inſomuch that (about 10000*l.* being yearly deducted to pay the Grants and Penſions with which the Revenue is charg'd) there remains now to the Governours no more than the contingent Income of Firſt Fruits to be diſtributed among the poor Clergy, which, *communibus annis*, may amount to between 4000 and 5000*l. per Annum* ; of which the Governours have been ſo good Huſbands, that they have now in their Hands near 10000*l.* which, by the Governours Rules *, lately confirm'd by Her Maſteſty, under Her Great Seal, and by the Generoſity of concurring Benefactors, there is great Reaſon to hope it will be encreaſed to double that Sum, and by that Means there may be, in a ſhort time, about 100 poor Livings partaking of Her Maſteſty's and Her charitable Subjects Bounty.

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* *Theſe Rules have been ſeveral Times publiſhed in the Gazette, and 10,000 Copies of them printed and diſperſed among the Parochial Clergy, by order of the Governours.*

There are also a Number of well-disposed Persons, who have endeavoured to assist the Labours of the Clergy, by procuring Benefactions for erecting **Parochial Libraries** in the meanly endowed Cures throughout *England*; by whose Care and Endeavours this Design has been so far advanced, that there are already upwards of 50 Libraries compleat, consisting of a competent Number of the best Comments on the Holy Scriptures, and the most approved Treatises of practical Divinity. These Libraries have been bestow'd on Livings not exceeding 30*l.* a Year certain Value to the Incumbent; and have been so dispers'd, that almost every Diocese in the Kingdom has receiv'd a Specimen of them, as may be seen by the List in the Postscript.

To secure these Books to all Posterity, as well as to satisfy the Benefactors to this Design, an Act of Parliament passed in the Year 1708,9. *for the better Preservation of Parochial Libraries in that Part of Great*
Bri-

Britain called England; whereby such wholesome Provisions are made for preventing Embezelments, as it is hoped will prove effectual for that Purpose. The Promoters of this good Design hope to advance it farther, as it shall please God to incline some charitable Persons to contribute towards it, there being already in Store some Thousands of Books in Quires for carrying it on.

Beside these Helps to the Clergy, there is a Society, whose Province is in a more peculiar manner to assist their Widows and Children; and that is the Society of the Sons of the Clergy, incorporated by King *Charles II.* July 1. 1678. by the Name of **The Governours of the Charity for Relief of the Poor Widows and Children of Clergy-Men.** Several Hundreds of Widows and Children of the Clergy have yearly received great Relief from this charitable Foundation, the Number of which last Year was 449. and the Sums distributed among them amounted to

1050*l.*

1050l. 11s. There is a Branch of this Society at *Chester*, which deserves to be taken Notice of here, as worthy to be imitated in other Places. In the Year 1700. or thereabout, the Clergy of the Arch-Deaconry of *Chester*, at the Desire of the Right Reverend Dr. *Siratford*, then Bishop of *Chester*, and Dr. *Entwistle*, then Arch-Deacon, consented to meet at *Warrington*, a fair Market-Town near the Centre of that Arch-Deaconry, for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Clergy-Men. They have ever since continued to meet on the first *Tuesday* in *June* Annually. They walk in a Body (the Bishop being usually at the Head of them) to the Church, are present at divine Service, and hear a Sermon preach'd unto them by one of the principal Clergy on that Occasion. Thence they return to a House where they dine. After Dinner, a Collection is made, every one putting secretly into a Box prepared for that Purpose what Money he thinks fit, which generally amounts to about 60 or 70l.

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When the Collection is over, they chuse Five Stewards from among the Clergy, to whom they deliver the Money; these Stewards take care to distribute it to such Widows and Children of Clergy-Men, as they shall think proper Objects of Charity. But before the Money is delivered to the new Stewards, they audit the Accounts of the Stewards of the preceding Year, which Accounts are approv'd and sign'd by some of the Sons of the Clergy-Men then present, and transmitted to the Corporation of Clergy-Mens Sons at *London*, of which this Society in *Cheshire* is now become a Part, by an Instrument regularly executed, and is made capable of enjoying the same Privileges and Advantages with them.

There remains but one Society more to give you an Account of, before I enter upon what I promised, which is, The Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts. This took its Rise at first from The Society for Promoting

ting Christian Knowledge. One great Branch of whose Design originally was, the Promoting Christian Knowledge in our Foreign Plantations; and accordingly, in some short time, with the Assistance of divers well disposed Persons, they procured and made up Eight Hundred Pounds, (of which the *Religious Societies* in and about *London* contributed one Hundred Pounds) this Eight Hundred Pounds they applied towards providing Bibles, and Common-Prayer-Books, Catechisms, and other religious Treatises, which they transmitted to the several Colonies in *North-America*; as also in furnishing several of the Plantations with Parochial Libraries, to invite pious and learned Clergy-Men to go over and reside there. They also (by voluntary Subscriptions) procured a Maintenance for Six Missionaries, who being approved by the *Lord Bishop* of *London*, went to Preach the Gospel in those Parts: And to render this Undertaking more effectual, they settled Correspondences with the Clergy and other worthy Persons there, as well as here at Home.

Thus

Thus far the Society proceeded in this Affair ; but this Design being found too large and extensive, and too great an Undertaking for a few private Persons, His late Majesty, *King William*, upon Application made to him, was graciously pleased, by his *Royal Charter, Anno Dom. 1701.* to incorporate his Grace the present *Lord Archbishop of Canterbury*, and a great Number of other Persons of the greatest Character both in Church and State, together with the then Members of this Society, by the Name of the *Society for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts*, with a Power of Electing new Members, and receiving and disposing of Charities for the Maintenance of an orthodox Clergy in the Plantations, Colonies, and Factories beyond the Seas, belonging to the Kingdom of *England*, and of making such other Provision as may be necessary for the Propagation of the Gospel in those Places.

How much Good they have accordingly since done, and are still doing ;

doing; and how successful their Endeavours have been in raising Charities, and providing for the Conversion of the Natives and Negroes, as well as the Instruction of the Subjects of *England* in those Parts, will appear by the Accounts that are yearly publish'd at the End of the Sermon preached at the Anniversary Meeting of the Society: And particularly the Progress that is made in executing General *Codrington's* Will, who, dying *April 7. 1710.* " bequeath'd his two Plantations in the Island of *Barbadoes*, * and part of his Island of *Barbuda*, to the Society for the " Propagation of the Christian Religion in Foreign Parts, erected and established by his late good Master King *William III.* and desires that the Plantations should continue entire, and Three Hundred Negroes † at least always kept there-

* Valued at about 2000*l.* per Annum clear of all Charges.

† The Society have already resolved to instruct these Negroes in the Principles of the Christian Religion.

“ thereon ; and a convenient Num-
 “ ber of Professors and Scholars
 “ maintain’d there, * who are to be
 “ obliged to study and practise
 “ Physick and Chirurgery, as well
 “ as Divinity, that by the apparent
 “ Usefulness of the former to all
 “ Mankind, they may both endear
 “ themselves to the People, and
 “ have the better Opportunities of
 “ doing good to Mens Souls, whilst
 “ they are taking care of their Bo-
 “ dies : But the Particulars of the
 “ Constitution he leaves to the So-
 “ ciety, compos’d of wise and good
 “ Men.

This Society meets once a Month,
 and oftner, as there is occasion, at
 the *Archbishop’s Library in St. Mar-
 tin’s in the Fields* ; but for the easi-
 er Dispatch of Business, and to pre-
 pare Matters against those Meetings,
 there are several Committees of the
 Society appointed to meet at the
Chapter-House at St. Paul’s, viz. A
General Committee, a Committee for
B
set-

* Note, That the Society is about building
 a College for this End in Barbadoes.

settling Bishopricks in America, a Committee for improving General Codrington's Bequest to the Society, a Committee to consider of the best Methods for Converting of Negroes in Her Majesty's Plantations and Colonies in America; besides which Meetings, there is an Annual Meeting of the Corporation at the Vestry at Bow-Church, to chuse a President, Vice Presidents, Auditors, and the Officers necessary for carrying on their Business; at which Time they have a Sermon preached by one of their own Members.

By the Account I have now given you of the Corporation, I have let you into the Knowledge of what was originally, as I told you, one Part of the Design of the **Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge**: What remains to be accounted for, is that other Branch of their Design, *The Promoting Christian Knowledge at Home*: In order to which, I must acquaint you, that the Society began very early to encourage, as much as in them lay,
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the Setting up of *Charity-Schools*, for the Instruction of poor Children in the Knowledge and Practice of the Christian Religion, as professed and taught in the *Church of England*; as well knowing, how much the Promoting of Christian Knowledge, and a Conformity to the Precepts of the Gospel, depends upon a right Education of Youth, especially such who, through the Poverty or Ignorance of their Parents, are in Danger of being abandoned to Ignorance, Idleness, and Vice.

There has been within a very few Years a great Progress made in these Schools, which, next to the Blessing of God, has been greatly owing to the Care and prudent Management of the Trustees of the respective Schools; so that in the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, there are now 117 *Charity-Schools*, in which are taught above 3000 Boys, and more than 1700 Girls, and most of the Children are cloathed; from these Schools there have been about 1650 Boys, and upwards of 824 Girls, put out Apprentices:

including many of both Sexes that have been taken as Servants into Families, and several Boys admitted into Her Majesty's Service at Sea.

Towards the Maintenance of these Schools, there is now above 5500*l.* a Year subscribed ; besides which, there hath been collected at Sermons, upon this Occasion, the last Year, above 3400*l.*

Given otherwise in Money at Times about 14487*l.* and in Houses, Land, and Annuities, some of which are perpetual, 350*l.* *per Ann.*

In the several Counties of *SOUTH BRITAIN*, the Number of Charity-Schools are encreased to above 900 ; in which about 19000 poor Children are freely taught, many of them are cloathed, some wholly maintained, and divers are placed in several Stations, serviceable and useful to the Publick ; but for a more particular Account of these Schools, and of the Methods that are taken for setting them up, I must refer you to an Account of them which is published once a Year : Printed by *J. Downing* in *Bartholomew-Close*.

In

In *NORTH BRITAIN*, there have been 28 Charity-Schools erected in about Six Years past, for teaching about 1000 Children, some of them set up by publick Bodies of Men, some by private Persons, but 17 of them by means of the Society there incorporated the 25th of *May* 1709. by Letters Patents from Her Majesty for *Propagating Christian Knowledge*. A List of which Schools you will find at the End of the large Account of Charity-Schools.

In *IRELAND*, a remarkable Zeal hath appeared during the last 3 or 4 Years for promoting this kind of Charity in several Parts of the Kingdom ; so that there are now 50 Charity-Schools, wherein about 800 Children are taught, most of 'em cloathed, and many wholly maintained and set to work ; of which you'll find the Particulars in the large Account published this Year, as mentioned above.

Her Majesty's Plantations in *NEW-ENGLAND* and *NEW-YORK* have also encouraged Schools for Educating poor Children in Read-

ing, Writing, Arithmetick, and the Knowledge of the Christian Religion.

Nor are Her Majesty's Dominions only happy in the successful Endeavours of this sort of Charity.

The *Czar of Muscovy* has also lately erected Schools in several of the great Towns in his Dominions. And *Denmark, Sweeden, Switzerland*, and several of the *German Princes*, have made Enquiry about the Methods here used in setting up these Schools. And here I cannot but take Notice of the faithful and surprising Account of the pious Foundation at *Glaucha* near *Hall* in *Saxony*, which from so small a Beginning as Eighteen Shillings and Six Pence, dropt into an Alms-Box fixed at the Study-Door of the Reverend *Augustus Hermannus Franck*, Minister there, is now, by seasonable and unexpected Supplies, (as God opened the Hearts and Hands of Neighbours and Strangers) grown so large as to become a sort of University. The History of which is worth your Perusal, in a Book, entituled,

entituled, *Pietas Hallensis* : or an Abstract of it: Both printed by Joseph Downing.

Another Branch of the Design of this Society has been the *Dispersing of Religious Books, especially amongst the poorer sort of People*; as Bibles, Common Prayer-Books, Church-Catechisms, with some Expositions thereof; others relating to Worship, as Family-Prayers, Confirmation, and frequent Communion; likewise such as treat of the Duties of Repentance and Restitution, &c. of the evil and dangerous Consequences of common Vices, as profane Swearing, Drunkenness, Uncleanliness, Profanation of the Lord's-Day, &c. as also his Grace the Archbishop of *Canterbury's* Letter to the Clergy; whose pious and fatherly Instructions and Recommendations therein have been of extraordinary Use for the exciting and encouraging the Clergy and Laity, in their several Stations, to oppose and discountenance the Profaneness and Immorality of the present Age: above 200,000 of these

and the like Tracts (most of which have been printed at the Charge of the Society) have been distributed amongst the Seamen and Soldiers at home and abroad, to the Sick and Wounded in Hospitals, to Prisoners, to Persons imployed in the Work-Houses, and to the Poor in other Places.

The Society have likewise sent Specimens of several small practical and devotional Treatises to their corresponding Members in the Country, that pious and charitable Persons might be encouraged, by the Lowness of the Price, (of which there is a Catalogue printed for that Purpose) to distribute them amongst the Poor; and accordingly, by this Means, not only the Correspondents, but several others, have bought up and distributed great Numbers of these small Tracts; as also some Quantities of Bibles, and Common-Prayer-Books. Besides which, several useful Books have been translated into the *Welsh* Language, and dispersed in *Wales*, for the Benefit
of

of such as do not understand *English* ; and because Octavo Bibles in that Language are exceeding scarce, the Society are now promoting a new Edition of the Bible and Common-Prayer Book in *Welsh*.

The Success that has attended this Design of dispersing Bibles, Common-Prayer-Books, and small Tracts, among the poorer sort, gives us great Reason to hope, that a diligent Pursuit of it will, by degrees, (through the Blessing of God) bring the Generality of the common People to a good Sense of the Importance of Religion, and a serious Concern for their everlasting Welfare.

The Society are so fully convinced of the Reasonableness of such Hopes, that they have extended their Charity of this kind to other Parts ; and have sent Packets of these little Books into *Ireland, New-England, Holland, Switzerland*, and other Foreign Countries ; for which End, they have also procured several useful Books to be translated into some Foreign Languages ; which has had

so good an Effect, that the late King of *Prussia*, being presented with the Translation of the Soldier's Monitor, was pleased to express a great liking of it, and ordered it to be dispersed through his Army. The King of *Sweden* has done the same, with the Addition of the *Kind Caution to Prophan Swearers*, at the End of it. The *Land-Grave* of *Hesse-Cassel*, some time ago, ordered Four Thousand of the same to be printed for the Use of his Soldiers : And 'tis to be hoped, these Examples will be followed by many others.

Another Design which the Society has engaged in, has been the Erecting *Libraries in Wales*, where they observing that there are a great Number of Benefices which are insufficient for the Maintenance of a Minister, and that in many of them the Clergy are not well able to furnish themselves with Books, they thought it would be a Means of promoting our holy Religion, to fix *Lending Libraries* in the several Market-Towns within each County
of

of the Four Dioceses in *Wales*. Accordingly they printed Proposals, to encourage well-disposed Persons to contribute Money or Books for that Purpose; and the Bishops of *Worcester*, *Hereford*, *Bangor*, *St. Davids*, *Landaffe*, and *St. Asaph*, having been pleased to be Trustees in this Affair, it met with that Encouragement, that the Society have set up Four Lending Libraries, to the Value of 60 Pounds each and upwards, in the Cities of *Bangor*, and *St. Asaph*; and in the Towns of *Carmarthen*, in the Diocese of *St. David's*; and *Cowbridge*, in the Diocese of *Landaffe*.

But that you may the better judge of the Nature and Design of this Society, I shall further acquaint you with several Particulars which they have from time to time recommended in their Circular Letters to their corresponding Members.

“ That if their Correspondents
 “ in each County were disposed to
 “ meet once a Year, or oftner, (if
 “ found practicable) to consult how
 “ they may promote Charity-
 “ Schools,

“ Schools, and remove such Diffi-
 “ culties as occur in the erecting
 “ and maintaining of them, it
 “ might contribute very much to
 “ further the Design.

“ That if their Correspondents
 “ did sometimes visit not only
 “ those Charity-Schools in their
 “ Neighbourhood, but such as are
 “ more distant from them, when
 “ they happen to travel in the
 “ Country, or in their way to
 “ *London*, leaving with them a
 “ Word of Commendation or Ad-
 “ vice, suitable to the Condition of
 “ such Schools; as it might be done
 “ without Offence, so no doubt it
 “ would be a very great Encou-
 “ ragement both to Masters and
 “ Children to see themselves thus
 “ taken Notice of by Strangers.

“ That great care ought to be
 “ taken in the well disposing of
 “ the Children when they go from
 “ these Schools; and because some
 “ have apprehended, that the pla-
 “ cing so many of them out Ap-
 “ prentices to manual Trades, as
 “ is now generally done, may oc-
 “ casion

" cation in time a Want of Servants,
 " especially in Husbandry ; the Soci-
 " ety have therefore recommended
 " to it their Correspondents to con-
 " sider, whether the bringing up
 " the Children to Husbandry, or
 " putting them out to Services in
 " sober Families, may not be more
 " useful to the Publick, and no
 " less beneficial to themselves.

" That however these Children
 " are disposed of, it will be very
 " necessary beforehand, to teach
 " them that great Lesson of *True*
 " *Humility*, which our Saviour has
 " prescribed to all that will be
 " his Disciples, least the Advan-
 " tages they receive from a pious
 " Education, should incline them
 " to put too great a Value upon
 " themselves; and therefore that
 " the Masters be often put in
 " mind of guarding the Children
 " under their Care, as much as pos-
 " sible, against such dangerous
 " Conceits; and in order there-
 " unto, to instruct them very care-
 " fully in the Duties of Servants,
 " and Submission to Superiors.

" That

“ That Endeavours be used to
 “ prevail upon the Masters and
 “ Mistresses of the Charity-Schools,
 “ to attend Two or Three Even-
 “ ings in a Week, for teaching
 “ such grown Persons to read as
 “ have been neglected in their
 “ Youth; and that the Society thinks
 “ this to be a Matter of so much
 “ Importance, as to deserve the
 “ Consideration of the Trustees to
 “ encourage it.

“ That it being of use, to pre-
 “ vent the Concealment or Mis-
 “ application of Moneys or Land
 “ given to charitable Uses, to have
 “ such Charities register’d in some
 “ publick Place ; the Society have
 “ recommended it to their Cor-
 “ respondents to procure an Entry
 “ of the Notices of such Gifts, up-
 “ on Tables, to be hung up in the
 “ Churches or Chappels of the
 “ Parishes to which such Charities
 “ belong, or otherwise, as they shall
 “ think may best preserve the Me-
 “ mory of them : And if they please
 “ to signify the Particulars thereof
 “ to the Society, they will be ve-
 “ ry acceptable.

“ The

“ The History of the Attempts
 “ that have been made to convert
 “ the Popish Natives of *Ireland* to
 “ the establish’d Religion, having
 “ been communicated to the Soci-
 “ ety by the Reverend Mr. *Rich-*
 “ *ardson*, one of their Correspon-
 “ dents in that Kingdom, they have
 “ gladly embrac’d the Opportuni-
 “ ty of recommending the Design
 “ of the Author, for printing and
 “ dispersing Common-Prayer-Books,
 “ Catechisms, and religious Tracts,
 “ in the *Irish* Language, as a Work
 “ highly tending to promote the
 “ Welfare of Her Majesty’s Sub-
 “ jects, and the Protestant Interest
 “ in that Kingdom; and they can-
 “ not but desire it may meet with
 “ the Countenance of all that wish
 “ well to those great Ends.

“ Several Persons having desir’d
 “ to know how a Legacy for fur-
 “ thering the Designs of the Soci-
 “ ety may be worded, so as to pre-
 “ vent any Doubt about the Pay-
 “ ment of it; for the Satisfaction
 “ of such Persons, the following
 “ Clause has been communicated to
 “ ’em.

“ *ITEM.*

“ **I** T E M. I A. B. do hereby give
 “ and bequeath unto C. D. of
 “ and E. F. of
 “ the Sum of
 “ upon Trust, and to the Intent, that
 “ they, or either of them, do pay the
 “ same to the Treasurer for the time
 “ being, of a voluntary Society, com-
 “ monly called or known by the Name
 “ of, The Society for Promoting
 “ Christian Knowledge, which first
 “ met about the Beginning of the Year
 “ 1699. and lately held their Weekly
 “ Meeting on Thursday at the House
 “ of the Reverend Mr. Henry Shute
 “ in Bartlet’s-Buildings, in the Parish
 “ of St. Andrew in Holborn, Lon-
 “ don; and now hold the same at Lin-
 “ colns-lun, or some other Place in the
 “ City of London, or Suburbs thereof;
 “ which said Sum of
 “ I desire may be applied towards car-
 “ rying on the charitable Designs of
 “ the said Society.

And if the Benefactor is pleased
 to restrain his Charity to any par-
 ticular Branch of the Society’s De-
 signs,

signs, he may add, either in *Great Britain, Ireland, or the East-Indies.*

The last Design I shall mention, tho' not of the least Importance, is that of the Protestant Mission to the *East-Indies*; of which be pleas'd to take the following Account.

In the Year 1705. the King of *Denmark* (being moved thereto by one of his Chaplains) sent two Reverend Divines, bred at *Hall* in *Saxony*, under Mr. Professor *Franck*, to the Coast of *Coromandel* in the *East-Indies*, to attempt the Conversion of the *Malabar* Heathen in those Parts, with an Annual Allowance for their Subsistence there. Soon after their Arrival on that Coast, they writ to their Friends in *Europe* an Account of their Voyage, of the Difficulties they met with in the Work they had undertaken, and of the likeiieft Means to remove them. The Substance of these Letters was published in *English* in the Years 1709 and 1710. and no sooner did this Account appear in our Language, but many charitable Persons shew'd themselves heartily

heartily dispos'd to assist in promoting so good a Design, and of which Protestants had been hitherto too too negligent. The *Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge* took upon them the Management of such Charities as were put into their Hands for the Support and Enlargement of the Mission, and appointed a Committee of their Members to meet as often as they should see fit, to consult about the most proper Methods for carrying on this Work, and to maintain a Correspondence with the Missionaries at *Tranquebar*. This is now become a standing Committee, by the Name of the *Committee for the Protestant Mission to the East-Indies*, and meets once a Week, or oftner if there be Occasion. By the liberal Contributions which have been made by well disposed Persons, towards this great and glorious Work, the Society has been enabled to send the Missionaries several Sums of Money. And having procured a new Impression of the *New-Testament* in *Portuguese*, they
sent

sent some Hundred Copies of 'em for the Use of the *Portuguese* Church and Schools there, together with several Books, and other things for the Use of the Missionaries. Besides which, the more to facilitate this Work, they sent a Printing-Press, with a Font of Types, and all other Materials belonging to it, and a large Quantity of Paper ; all which fell into the Hands of the *French*, but being afterwards ransomed, are now safe at *Tranquebar*, and diligently employed by the Missionaries, who have sent into *Europe* Specimens of what they had already printed there. Nor have the *English* been the only Benefactors to this Undertaking, the *Germans* have contributed largely, even from the Beginning, towards carrying on this Work ; and several considerable Sums of Money have been sent into *England*, collected by the Reverend Mr. Professor *Franck*, in order to be remitted to the *East-Indies* ; and two Years ago a Printer was sent from *Hall* with a Font of *Malabarick* Types, &c. as also a School-

Ma-

Master, who are safely arrived at Fort St. *George*. But for your fuller Satisfaction in this Matter, I refer you to the Narrative lately printed, in which you will find the Account of the Mission brought down to the Beginning of the Year 1713. And tho' by the Blessing of God, and the Assistance of charitable Persons, the indefatigable Labours of the Missionaries have not been without Success, yet the Progress hitherto made in the Conversion of the Heathen, is but an *Embryo*, as it were, or a preparatory Step towards this great Work: For as Enterprizes of this Nature move gradually so 'tis hop'd that divine Providence will gradually supply us with such a Measure of his Power and Spirit as shall overcome those Obstacles which the grand Enemy of Souls raises against it. As the first Foundation of the Gospel was laid in the midst of various Oppositions, so we need not wonder if the Propagation and Enlargement of it meets with the same Fate and Obstruction; but the Work
of

of God, tho' it commonly meets with great Difficulties, will triumph at last over the fiercest Opposition. Give me leave to add, that by Letters from *Copenhagen*, we understand that the King of *Denmark* being very much affected with the Narrative of what had been done in *England* towards the Support of the Mission, (which is printed in *High Dutch*, and was read over in his Presence) has resolved to support the Missionaries in the Work they have so happily begun, and to make an Addition to their Allowance, and ordered besides a considerable Present to be sent to them. I must not omit to acquaint you, That the *Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts* being limited by their Charter to Her Majesty's Dominions in the *West-Indies*, could not, as a Society, engage in this Charity; yet their Members have, by their liberal Contributions, shewn a hearty Concurrence in promoting it.

The Society acknowledge with great Thankfulness the Goodness
of

of God in the Success that He has been pleased to give to their Endeavours; and as they cannot but be pleased to see that they are any ways instrumental in promoting the Interest of Religion, so they heartily wish there were more Societies of this kind in other Parts of the Kingdom, especially among the Clergy; it having been observed, that wherever the Clergy have united together in Societies, pursuant to the Directions of his Grace the Lord *Archbishop of Canterbury*, there are few or no Instances of such Union, which have not made some tolerable Step towards the reviving of Religion; either by a stricter Conformity among themselves to the Canons and Rubricks of our Church; or by promoting Lending Libraries, or Schools, or the dispersing of pious Books, or by more frequent Communion, or by a more than ordinary Diligence in Catechizing, or by a frequent Attendance on the publick Prayers of the Church, or by charitable Contributions

tions to the Poor, or by suppressing Profaneness and Immorality.

In short, *Sir*, nothing less than an united Force seems sufficient to bear up against the great Power of Vice and Irreligion that has broke in upon us; for as the excellent *Author of the Whole Duty of Man*, in his *Decay of Christian Piety*, observes, “ The Scandal which we have brought upon Religion, as it was not contracted by the Irregularities of one or two Persons, but by *associated and common Crimes*; so neither will it be removed by a few single and private Reforms. There must be Combinations and publick Confederacies in Virtue to ballance and counterpoise those of Vice, or they will never recover that Honour, which she acquired by the general Piety of her Professors. Upon a full Conviction of this Truth, the Society has recommended to their corresponding Members the forming *Societies* of this kind in the Country, and they hope, not without some Success.

This,

This, Sir, is a short Account of our Society ; to which I think I need add nothing farther, than to acquaint you, that this Society (as many other things of the like kind, which are now considerable, have done) took its Rise from a very small Beginning ; a few private Gentlemen of the Church of *England*, about the Beginning of the Year 1699. met together, to consult upon Methods for promoting the real and practical Knowledge of true Religion ; which being a Design of so excellent a Nature, many others very readily came into it ; and, blessed be God, the Number of their residing, as well as corresponding Members, have since greatly increased. They meet weekly on *Thursday* Afternoon ; and when any Business occurs, which requires Deliberation, it is referr'd to a Committee, who also meet Weekly for dispatching all such Matters as lie before them.

May

May God of his infinite Goodness animate the Zeal, and bless the Designs of all those, who from a serious Concern for their own and others Salvation, are labouring to promote the Knowledge of God, and the Practice of true Religion among us.

I am,

S I R,

With great Sincerity,

*July 1st
1714.*

Your affectionate

Humble Servant.

C

POST.

POSTSCRIPT.

An Account of the Dioceses
and Towns supply'd with
Parochial Libraries since pas-
sing of the Act for the better
Preservation of them 17c⁸₉.

<i>Diocese.</i>	<i>Counties.</i>	<i>Towns.</i>
C ^A nter- bury	{ K ^E NT— Kent —	P ^R eston Debtling
London —	{ E ^S sex — Virginia — Mon:serat —	Newport Manicantown Northparish
St. Asaph--	{ Montgomerish. Caernarvonsh. -	Darrowen Eglwys Rhos
Bangor—	Caernarvonshire--	Pwllheli

<i>Diocese.</i>	<i>Counties.</i>	<i>Towns.</i>
Bath and Wells—	{ Somersetshire— Somersetshire—	Kilmersdon Corston
Bristol—	Dorsetshire—	Dorchester
St. David's—	{ Cardiganshire— Pembrokeshire—	Lanbadernvaur Prendergast
Ely —	Cambridgeshire—	Dullingham
Exeter --	{ Cornwall— Devonshire-- Devonshire --	Lestwithiel Slapton Kingsbridge
Gloucester-	{ Gloucestershire - Gloucestershire - Gloucestershire -	Flaxley Oxenhall Brockthorp
Hereford --	{ Herefordshire— Monmouthshire-	Weobly Monmouth
Landaff --	{ Monmouthshire- Monmouthshire- Monmouthshire-	Trevethin Newport Chepstow
Litchfield & Coventry	{ Salop ——— Staffordshire — Warwickshire --	Dudlinton Brewood Overwhitacre
Lincoln —	Huntingdonshire—	St. Neots
Norwich--	{ Suffolk ——— Norfolk ———	Sudbury Northwalsam

<i>Diocese.</i>	<i>Counties.</i>	<i>Towns.</i>
Peterbo- rough—	<i>Northamptonsh.</i>	Harrowdown parva
	<i>Northamptonsh.</i>	Irthlingbo- rough
	<i>Northamptonsh.</i>	Oundle
	<i>Northamptonsh.</i>	Wollaston
Worcester—	<i>Worcestershire --</i>	Feckenham
	<i>Worcestershire --</i>	Elmly
	<i>Worcestershire --</i>	Evesham
	<i>Warwickshire --</i>	Henly
	<i>Warwickshire --</i>	Alcester
	<i>Staffordshire --</i>	Oldbury
York —	<i>Yorkshire —</i>	Tinsley
	<i>Yorkshire —</i>	Bolstertone
	<i>Yorkshire —</i>	Wentworth
	<i>Yorkshire —</i>	Mask
	<i>Yorkshire —</i>	Burlington
	<i>Yorkshire —</i>	Tadcaster
Durham —	<i>Northumberland</i>	Alnwick
	<i>Bishoprick —</i>	Darlington
Carlisle —	<i>Cumberland —</i>	Wigton
	<i>Cumberland —</i>	Kirkoswold
	<i>Westmoreland —</i>	Bampton
	<i>Cumberland —</i>	Brough by Sands
Chester —	<i>Cumberland —</i>	St. Bees

*A List of the present Treasurers of
the Societies mentioned in this Letter.*

THE Corporation of the Governours of the Bounty of Queen Anne, to the poor Clergy.

*Edward Barker of Mortlake, Esq; in
Fig-Tree-Court, Inner-Temple.*

For the Governours of the Charity
for Relief of the poor Widows and
Children of Clergy-Men.

*George Lewis, Goldsmith overagainst
the New Exchange in the Strand.
Richard Sare, Bookieller at Gray's-
Inn in Holborn.*

Joseph Nicholson, Apothecary in Salisbury-Court in Fleetstreet.

The Society for Propagating the
Gospel in Foreign Parts.

Rowland Tryon, Esq; in Limestreet.

The

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

The Reverend Mr. *Henry Shute*, at
London-House in *Aldersgatestreet*.

For the Protestant Mission to the
East-Indies; And also for Parochial
Libraries.

Mr. *Henry Hoare*, at the *Golden-
Bottle* in *Fleetstreet*.

For Printing and Dispersing Com-
mon-Prayer-Books, Catechisms, &c.
in the *Irish* Language.

The Reverend Mr. *Shute*, at *London-
House* as above.

The Reverend Mr. *Richardson*, at
Belturbet in *Ireland*.

F I N I S.

BOOKS Sold by J. Downing in Bartholomew-Close near West-Smithfield.

THE Grounds and Principles of the Christian Religion, explain'd in a Catechetical Discourse for the Instruction of young People. Written in French by *J. Osterwald*; and translated by *Mr. Wanley*, and revised by *Dr. Stanhope*. 2d Edit.

A Farther Instruction for those who have learnt the Church Catechism. Wherein, by an Explanation of the Festivals and Fasts of the Church of *England*, Christians are reminded and fix'd in the Profession of the Articles of the Apostles Creed.

A New Method of Catechizing, by way of Questions upon the Church Catechism: Together with Directions all along for inculcating into Children the Fundamental Principles of Christianity therein contain'd.

The Church Catechism broke into short Questions, with an Explanation of some Words, for the easier Understanding of it: To which are added, Prayers for the Charity-Schools.

A Short Catechism, explaining the Substance of the Christian Religion. Suited to the Understanding of Children, and the meanest Capacities.

The Duty of Publick Worship proved; to which are added, Directions for a devout Behaviour therein. Drawn chiefly from the holy Scripture, and the Liturgy of the Church; and an Account of the Method of the Common-Prayer. By way of Question and Answer.

Directions for the devout and proper Use of the Common Prayer, in the daily Service of the Church.

The Christian's Way to Heaven: Or, what he must do to be saved.

The Young-man's Instructor: Or some Directions for his whole Behaviour. For the Use of the Charity-Schools.

The necessary Duty of Family Prayer, and the deplorable Condition of Prayerless Families considered, in a Letter from a Minister to his Parishioners. With Prayers for their Use.

The Young-man's Monitor : shewing the great Happiness of early Piety, and the dreadful Consequence of indulging Youthful Lusts.

A few Cautions and Directions in order to the more Devout and Decent Performance of the publick Worship of God, as appointed by the Church of *England*.

The Country Minister's Instruction to his Young Parishioners at *Easter*, who desire to come to the Communion. To which is added, some Directions for their future Behaviour, and Prayers proper for the Sacrament and for daily Devotion.

The Duty of Reproof, with the most material Objections against it consider'd; and some Cautions and Directions added, which may be helpful towards a successful Discharge of it.

The Christian Peace-Maker. By a Member of the Church of *England*.

The Art of Spelling and Reading English, with Proper and Useful Lessons for Children, Prayers, Psalms, Hymns, &c.

A short Grammar for the English Tongue: For the Use of English Schools. Dedicated to the Honourable Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. Both by *William Turner*, M. A. Master of the Free-School at *Stamford* in *Lincolnshire*.

Pastoral Advice to young persons, in order to their being confirmed by the Bishop.

Pastoral Advice to a young Person lately confirmed by the Bishop.

A Discourse concerning Wilful Sins, and Sins of Infirmary. With another of Restitution. By the Right Reverend *Richard*, late Lord Bishop of *Bath* and *Wells*.

